

12. ON TWO DORIDACEAN NUDIBRANCHS (MOLLUSCA: GASTROPODA), FROM THE GULF OF KUTCH, NEW TO THE INDIAN COAST

The present note reports the occurrence, in the Gulf of Kutch, of two Doridacean Nudibranchs, *Peltodoris rubescens* Bergh (1905) and *Platydoris pulchra* Elliot (1903), which do not appear to have been recorded from the Indian coast. The specimens studied are deposited in the Museum of the Fisheries Research Station, Government of Gujarat, Jamnagar.

Peltodoris rubescens Bergh

Material: A single specimen measuring 30 mm. in length, 16 mm. in breadth and 10 mm. in height, collected from Okha (22° 28'N. & 69° 05' E.) on May 15, 1967.

Body doridiform with a cream-coloured mantle, with yellow margin. Notum papillose with secondary points. Papillae brown with pale margin. Rhinophores black and finely lamellate, with approximately 20 lamellae. Secondary branchiae five to six in number, bipinnately branched and black and yellow in colour. Oval foot, measuring 27 mm. in length and 10 mm. in breadth, is anteriorly broad and notched. Sole is smooth and brown. Oral tentacles conical. Salivary glands long and colourless. Labium smooth and does not bear any armature. Radula 3.2 mm. long and 1.8 mm. wide and pale yellowish in colour. There are 36 hamate teeth arranged on either side of the naked rachis in each row. In all there appears to be 35 rows. Seminal vesicles are semiserial. Penis unarmed and has cuticular lining.

The dental formula places the present form with *Peltodoris mauritiana* Bergh (1889) and *Peltodoris rubescens* Bergh (1905). The former is said to be minutely granulate on the dorsum and latter finely knotty. The East African form, *P. aurea* Elliot (1903), though it appears similar to the present specimen, has a smaller radula (25 × 25.0.25), warty dorsum, eight gills and is bright orange in life.

In body coloration and radular formula the present form resembles *P. rubescens* Bergh, and in its stronger dorsal ornamentation, *P. aurea* Elliot, but differs from the latter in the longer radular formula and fewer gills.

Though the genus, *Peltodoris*, is reported to be widely distributed in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, Indian Ocean and Western Pacific coasts, I am not aware of any previous record of this genus from the Indian coasts,

Platydoris pulchra Elliot

Material: Two specimens (30 and 20 mm.) caught in the trawl net of the Survey Vessel, 'Gulfshrimp', of the Directorate of Fisheries, Gujarat State, from a depth of about 13 fathoms off Pirotan Island (22° 33' N., 69° 58' E.).

Body flat, oval and hard in texture. Mantle rough, spiculate and provided with many small granulations, which are bigger in the mid-dorsum and smaller on the periphery. Both the specimens are yellowish orange on both sides. The mid-dorsum has a greyish tinge, due to the sandy grey granules. There are a few chocolate spots, which are more on the ventral side. At certain places, the granules are surrounded by small chocolate rings. Rhinophores are pinkish brown and laminated. Gills six, tripinnately branched and coloured as the rhinophores. Foot, about 18 mm. long, and notched anteriorly. Sole flat and oval. The genital organs could not be studied, as they are completely shrunk. Radula has 44 rows of simple hamate teeth. Each row bears about 55 teeth on either side of the naked rachis.

The present forms differ from the Indian species, *Platydoris ellioti* (Alder and Hancock), in the dental formula and approximate the East African species, *Platydoris pulchra* Elliot (1903). *P. pulchra* Elliot appears to be new to the Indian coast.

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